



## Aruba Hi Winds 21 ends with a fun farewell at MooMba Beach

A new generation of athletes like Wim Eleens are now conducting the Aruba Hi Winds Windsurfing Regatta, but tradition prevailed for the farewell dinner and awards on Monday evening. Held at the MooMba Beach Bar and Restaurant as every year, Evert Bongers presided over the tabulations and acted as Master of Ceremonies for the awarding of nearly seventy trophies in twenty-three categories.

The first participants to be honored were Baby Kids Nathan and Marvin, already surfing at four years old, and champions of the future. The champions of the day started with the children's divisions and the first place winner in the New Kids Slalom Division, representing Aruba, was Mack v/d Eerenbeemt, whose father, J.P. was the president of the Hi Winds Committee for the last ten years. Obviously, windsurfing talent runs in the family. Youp Schmit of Bonaire was the winner in the Superkids Slalom, and Rodderick Boekhoudt of Bonaire took the Big Kids title. In the freestyle competitions, Choco Frans of the famous Frans windsurfing family of Bonaire earned the title of "King of the Huts," Jeager Sin Jago also of Bonaire was named Prince, and took first place in the Junior Long Distance while Quincy Connor of Aruba won "Kid of the Huts 2007." The Junior Overall Winner was Arthuro Soliano of Bonaire, who also took first place in the Junior Slalom. Hilde Tuinbeek of Curacao was named "Queen of the Huts."

In the adult competitions, first place in the Long Distance Divisions went to Alexis Carache of Venezuela, and Hilde Tuinbeek won Women's Long Distance and Slalom divisions earning her the trophy for first place Women Overall. Ricardo Albisu of Argentina, who has been participating in the Aruba Hi Winds annually for twenty years, won first place in the Masters category, Long Distance and Slalom, which also won him the Masters Overall title. Marvellous Maingot of Bonaire earned first place in the Sports division for Long Distance and Slalom earning him the trophy for Sports competitor Overall. Alexis Carache of Venezuela took the first place trophy for Men's Overall and Aruba's own Ryan Lampe took first place in Men's Slalom earning him the second place trophy for Men's Overall.

This year Aruba welcomed twenty kite surfing competitors, setting a new record, and first time competitor Philip Kervel of Aruba took first place in the Sports Divisions. Leo Estudo of Venezuela won the Kite Surfing Open Division.

Before the awards ceremony, representatives of the major sponsors of the tournament, Aruba Tourism Authority and Amstel Bright addressed the gathering. Amyra Boekhoudt on behalf of the ATA expressed great satisfaction in the attendance this year, and was joined by Patrick Melchior, General Manager of Heineken and Amstel Bright in praising Wim Eleen and his crew for a great job in their first year of organizing the event. Patrick then called up J.P. v/d Eerenbeemt to honor him for the many years he organized and ran the Hi Winds, and to show award him with various gifts for his hard work in the past.

The evening ended with the ritual screening of a week of trials and triumphs, pratfalls and pranks and breathtaking wind and kite surfing action. Farewell to all the competitors that came from Europe, Latin America, the United States and Caribbean, the ATA and Hi Winds Committee look forward to welcoming them back next year!